

Lux Center News



December 29, 2021

Happy New Year?

I have consciously decided not to make resolutions for the 2022 new year. As 2021 began, it seemed that there would be much to look forward to. A life-saving and protective vaccine against the CoVid-19 virus was scientifically developed, approved for use and made available in the United States and in so many places in the world. It looked like we would finally be able to safely come out of our CoVid-19 cocoons and live freely as we have done before.

However, there were so many challenges in 2021 that would derail plans and goals. Delta and Omicron variants continued to threaten us with isolation, illness, and death. Natural disasters such as storms, fires and floods continually afflicted parts of our country and the world. Violent conflicts arose highlighting political, social, and moral divides between people. Mass shootings continued. Supply chain disruptions and a lack of workers needed to fill essential positions overwhelmed businesses. 2021 seemed to be a year filled with fear, despair, and frustration.

Going forward to 2022, how do we transform illness and fear to health and courage? How can we move from despair to hope?

It is not time to give up, or get stuck in overcoming endless obstacles. We can move forward as we look to new possibilities. According to the ancient Prophet Isaiah, "The people that walked in darkness have seen a brilliant light." (9:1) Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, of blessed memory, reminded us of the wisdom of the Prophets,

The first is that they were all *Prophets of hope*. Even in their darkest moments they were able to see through the clouds of disaster to the clear sky beyond. They were not optimists. There is a difference between optimism and hope. Optimism is the belief that things will *get* better. Hope is the belief that if we work hard enough together we can *make* things better. It needs no courage to be an optimist, but it needs courage, wisdom, a deep understanding of history and possibility, and the ability to communicate, to be a Prophet of hope.

May we begin 2022 with hope AND optimism.
The Lux Center wishes you a healthy and happy 2022!

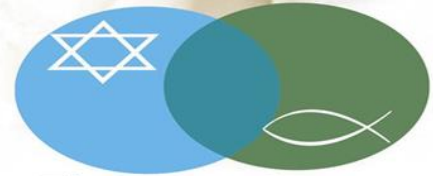
Join Us for Inspiring Lux Center Programs in 2022

For more information about these events or recordings of past events, go to <https://www.shsst.edu/lux-events/>



Jewish Studies Seminar
for Christians

The Jewish People and the Church



The Lux Center
for Catholic-Jewish Studies
at Sacred Heart Seminary and
School of Theology

WEDNESDAY EVENING LEARNING SESSIONS

View *online* or attend *in-person* at 7335 S. Hwy. 100, Franklin, WI 53132

(In person sessions determined by the status of Covid-19 protocols)

Why Catholics Need to Know about the Holocaust: Implications for Today's World

JAN. 19, 7:00-8:15 pm CST: *Tim Crain, Ph.D.*



Crain

Dr. Crain is a well-known historian and speaker and was a professor and director of the National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education at Seton Hill University.

Jews, Jesus and the Jerusalem Temple

JAN. 26, 7:00-8:15 pm CST: *Malka Z. Simkovich, Ph.D*



Dr. Simkovich is the Crown-Ryan Chair of Jewish Studies and the director of the Catholic-Jewish Studies program at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Registration is required. Learn more:

shsst.edu/lux-events

SAVE THE DATE!



Sister Rose Thering Award Dinner

Thursday, May 19, 2022

6:00 p.m.

Boerner Botanical Gardens

Honoring:

Rabbi Ronald Shapiro

Rev. David Cooper

Building Bridges Award Recipients

Rev Wayne Jenkins

Dr. Steven Shippee

Lux Center Spring Public Lecture

Sunday, March 27, 2022

3:00 p.m.

featuring Fr. Dennis McManus



Fr. Dennis McManus is a priest of the Archdiocese of Mobile. Fr. McManus is Consultant for Jewish Affairs at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He also serves as Adjunct Professor in the department of Jewish civilization at Georgetown University and has taught Christian theology and Jewish studies for over 40 years.

